Mr. M. Govinda Pillai : I may assert that more than once the department expected to make the payment before the end of Karkadagom. But it was not possible for them to effect the payment. The Department never expected that the work could not be completed during the last year.

Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail : May I know from the Chief Engineer whether the amount that is now demanded by the department is the same amount surrendered by the department ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : The P. W. D. Officers prepare the budget estimates some months ahead. At that time the department expected to complete the work and make the necessary payments for the same. Unfortunately that was found not practicable. That being so, the department surrendered the amount provided for it and we are now asking a supplementary grant.

Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail : I want a definite answer to the question *viz.*, whether the amount now demanded by the department is the same amount was returned by them.

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : The department surrendered about 15,900 rupees and this sum is included in the amount now asked for, the remainder being for extra works sanctioned by Government.

President : The question before the House is that a sum of Rs. 30,000 for finishing the works relating to the opening of the Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory at Kundara be granted.

The motion was put and carried.

The demand was made.

XXVI. Ports.

Mr. G. B. E. Tuscott : I move for a grant of Rs. 1,460 for the reconstruction of the kitchen and corridor in the Marine Bungalow at Alleppey.

During a heavy storm at the end of last year, some trees fell down and ruined the kitchen and corridor of the building. So I am asking for this grant for reconstruction of the kitchen and the corridor attached to the building ?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know, who is occupying that building ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : The Port Officer.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Does he pay any rent ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : I do not know.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : I oppose the motion. As far as I know there is no permanent Port Officer of the Travancore Government who occupies the Marine Bungalow at

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[Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi.]

Alleppey. The Port Officership of late, has been an office more or less intended as a temporary resting place for some would be high officer of Government, whether he be the District Magistrate or the Excise Commissioner or any officer. Now I find the District Magistrate of Quilon is attending to the duties of the Port Officer. I do not want to say anything of the policy of Government during a discussion on a supplementary demand in this connection. But my point is that when there is no permanent officer, where is the necessity for improving the building that is intended as the residence of the Port Officer? Is that the training ground for promoting certain officers? Analogy for the same could be found only from the field of Biology *viz.*, that tad-poles develop into big frogs. Why should we spend money on such a building for which there is no permanent tenant? It is never occupied by the permanent Port Officer. At best, a Port Officer comes and stays there till he gets a bigger job in Government. Thanks to the Governmental policy. Is it that the Financial Department is richer for training a gentleman for the Port Office? Is it that the District Magistrate of Quilon is freely banning public meetings because of his short experience in the Port Office? When the Port Office itself is considered to be very unimportant and when Government thinks that there is no necessity of a permanent Port Officer, I ask why should Government spend more money on buildings for the Marine office. For these reasons I oppose the motion.

Mr. G. B. E. Tuscott: There is already an acting Port Officer and he has to remain there until a permanent officer is appointed. The present incumbent is acting as a temporary measure and a permanent Port Officer will be appointed shortly. In any case, some person occupies that bungalow and there must be some facilities for him in the shape of kitchen.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether there is not already a kitchen in the bungalow?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: That has fallen down on account of storm.

President: Is there not a permanent Port Officer?

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: Yes, Sir, Mr. Cameron, the Commissioner of Devicolam is the permanent Port Officer. He will be joining duty shortly.

President: The question before the House is that a sum of Rs. 1460 be granted for the reconstruction of the kitchen and corridor in the Marine bungalow at Alleppey

The motion was put and carried.

The demand was made.

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